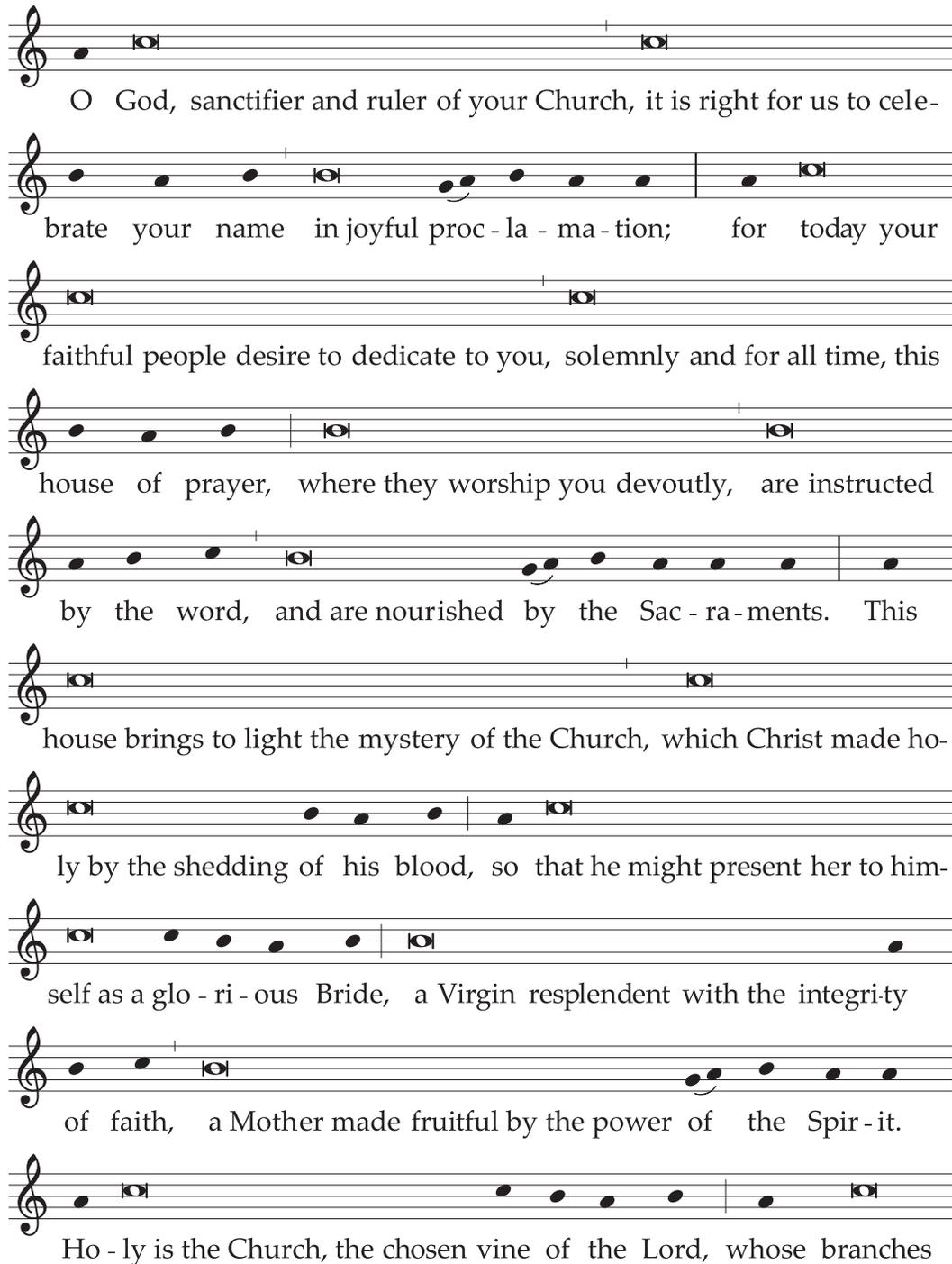


THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

Prayer of Dedication

(Chapter II, no. 62)



O God, sanctifier and ruler of your Church, it is right for us to celebrate your name in joyful proc - la - ma - tion; for today your faithful people desire to dedicate to you, solemnly and for all time, this house of prayer, where they worship you devoutly, are instructed by the word, and are nourished by the Sac - ra - ments. This house brings to light the mystery of the Church, which Christ made holy by the shedding of his blood, so that he might present her to himself as a glo - ri - ous Bride, a Virgin resplendent with the integrity of faith, a Mother made fruitful by the power of the Spir - it.

Ho - ly is the Church, the chosen vine of the Lord, whose branches

fill the whole world, and whose tendrils, borne on the wood of
the Cross, reach upward to the King-dom of Heav-en. Bless-ed is
the Church, God's dwelling place with the hu-man race, a holy temple
built of living stones, standing upon the foundation of the A-pos-tles
with Christ Jesus its chief cor-ner-stone. Ex - al-ted is the Church,
a City set high on a mountain for all to see, re - splendent to
every eye with the unfading light of the Lamb, and resounding with
the sweet hymn of the Saints. There-fore, O Lord, we be-seech you:
gra-ciously pour forth from heaven your sanctifying power upon this
church and upon this al - tar, to make this for ever a ho - ly place
with a table always prepared for the Sacri-fice of Christ. Here may
the flood of divine grace overwhelm hu-man of-fens-es, so that your

children, Father, being dead to sin, may be reborn to heav-en - ly life.

Here may your faithful, gathered around the table of the altar, cele-

brate the memorial of the Pas-chal Mys-ter - y and be refreshed by the

banquet of Christ's Word and his Bod-y. Here may the joyful offering

of praise re-sound, with human voices joined to the song of An-gels,

and unceasing prayer rise up to you for the salvation of the world.

Here may the poor find mer-cy, the oppressed attain true free-dom,

and all people be clothed with the dignity of your chil-dren, until they

come exultant to the Je - ru - sa-lem which is a-bove. Through our

Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity

of the Ho - ly Spir-it, one God, for ev - er and ev - er. **R.** A - men.

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